

Manifesto

Social Cohesion in Wartime and Postwar Ukraine: A Shared Agenda for Joint Action

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy's Initiative

Ukraine's resistance to the full-scale invasion has demonstrated extraordinary resilience of its people, institutions, and communities. Yet the challenges created by the war extend far beyond physical destruction. They affect the social fabric of the country itself: trust, justice, human connections, identity, psychological resilience, civic participation, and the capacity of society to remain cohesive under prolonged pressure.

The future recovery of Ukraine will depend not only on rebuilding infrastructure and institutions, but also on preserving and strengthening social cohesion as a foundation for democratic resilience and long-term stability.

Today, issues such as justice and fairness, post-war trauma, reintegration of veterans, identity, community safety and community recovery, as well as institutional trust are often addressed separately – across actors, institutions, and international programs. While these efforts are critically important, fragmented responses alone may be insufficient to address challenges of such scale and complexity.

Social cohesion cannot be treated as a secondary or purely academic issue. It is a strategic dimension of national resilience and an essential condition for sustainable recovery, democratic development, and societal stability in Ukraine and beyond.

The challenges Ukraine faces today increasingly transcend national borders. Questions of resilience, social trust, democratic stability, reintegration, disinformation, war trauma, and recovery are becoming part of a broader European and international agenda. This creates a shared responsibility for coordinated thinking, cooperation, and long-term engagement.

As one of Ukraine's leading academic institutions, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy does not offer ready solutions. On the contrary, we recognize that no single institution, sector, or international actor can fully address these challenges alone.



We therefore propose Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and its analytical platform KMA Analytics as an open interdisciplinary space for dialogue, research, exchange of ideas, and coordination between academia, state institutions, civil society, international partners, and local communities.

We invite Ukrainian and international stakeholders – researchers, policymakers at the national and regional levels, diplomats, practitioners, civil society representatives, veterans’ initiatives, diaspora initiatives, public sector, and international organizations – to engage in the development of a shared agenda for strengthening social cohesion in wartime and postwar Ukraine.

This initiative is not a conclusion – it is an invitation to joint thinking and joint action.

Because the future resilience of Ukraine – and the broader democratic space to which it belongs – will depend on our collective ability to preserve trust, strengthen social cohesion, and shape inclusive responses to the challenges ahead.

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